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Your remark on the depreciation of the Irish character in this country, and your observation, "that something is radically wrong," is too well founded to be controverted; at the same time it is fair to inquire the probable cause of this afflicting circumstance, while it is a consoling reflection to observe the convicts from our country so much decreased for some years past, although the emigration has been great beyond any former times. Irish emigrants exceed those of England and Scotland in the ratio of one hundred to one; the records therefore of the state prison tell much in our favour. So that perhaps it would "tell better" for *the Union*, if the convicts of the three kingdoms were put down under the head, *Great Britain*. It would not be the first time that poor Ireland had to bear infinitely more than her share of the load of odium, arising, in a great measure, from that system by which she has been governed for ages.

It has been too much the practice of our friends in Ireland, to hurry out to this country, every lazy or worthless individual, who could not find refuge in the Army, Navy, Church, or at the Bar; or were unwilling to pursue any avocation of industry. Since the year 1801, many of this description have been engaged

in fighting the battles of Britain, and no doubt many a life has been lost on the fields of Talavera, which might otherwise have lingered out an existence in our penitentiary. I mean no reflection on the worthy and brave men who were unfortunately doomed to destruction in the Spanish and Portuguese wars.

Much more might be said on this subject, particularly on the cruelty of those parents or friends, who send their unpromising children or connections here, without trade, occupation, or money; I shall merely remark as a general rule, that the industrious farmer, labourer, and mechanic, cannot fail of succeeding, and though it may appear extraordinary that in this happy country, where the means of gaining a livelihood by labour is comparatively easy, there should be so many convicts in one prison, yet it should be recollected that witnesses and jurors, who would shudder at the idea of prosecuting and convicting petty criminals under your sanguinary code, think it necessary and praiseworthy to give these wretches an opportunity of expiating their crimes by solitary confinement, of learning a useful trade, and of becoming, as I have known many of them to be, useful and exemplary members of society. C.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THOMAS CLARKSON, M. A. THE INTREPID ADVOCATE OF THE ABOLITION OF NEGRO SLAVERY.

Extracted from the Annual Review.

"When Clarkson his victorious course began,
Unyielding in the cause of God and man,
Wise, patient, persevering to the end,
No guile could thwart, no power his purpose bend;

He rose o'er Afric like the sun in smiles,
He rests in glory on the western isles."
Montgomery's West. India.

THERE are many persons among us who maintain an opinion, that no progressive amelioration of mankind has hitherto taken place, and that none is to be expected hereafter. They hold this heartless doctrine because they are ignorant of the past, and careless for the fu-

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ture ; or because they find their advantage in existing abuses. Some there are, who having seen their generous hopes for the general good disappointed, have sought consolation in the belief that they ought never to have entertained them, and taking up a system more monstrous than the doctrines of the Zendaesta or of Manes, excuse the enormities of man by imputing them to the immutable order of nature. To this opinion, than which none can be more deadly in its effects, the history of the slave trade affords a triumphant reply. Never was the slow and certain progress of truth and humanity so triumphantly exemplified as in this great instance.

There never was a time in which some testimony was not borne against this accursed traffic in human flesh. When the introduction of negroe slaves to the West Indies was first proposed by Las Casas, Cardinal Ximenes (as we call him) rejected the proposal. Charles V. established the trade : he lived to repent of this among his other misdeeds, and made all the reparation in his power ; but the evil had struck the root. The question was brought before Leo X, and that pontiff declared, that not only the christian religion, but nature herself cried out against a state of slavery.

The first Englishman who brought this guilt upon his own soul and upon his country, was Sir John Hawkins ; on his return, Elizabeth expressed her fears lest any of the Africans should be carried off without their free consent ; declaring that it would be detestable, and call down the vengeance of heaven upon the undertakers. The trade, however, was begun, and continued : and when, in the succeeding reign, the writer of Sir Thomas Roe's voyage, called the " Nations of Africa, the poor, ignorant, and most miserable

negroes, born for sale, slavery, and slaughter ;" as such they were regarded by his countrymen without compunction. Louis XIII of France could not be persuaded to authorise the trade till he had been made to believe that the readiest way of converting the negroes, was by importing them at the colonies. It thus appears, that the pope and the sovereigns of Spain, England, and France, felt the iniquity of this traffic, when it was first established. But popes and princes have not been remarkable for tender consciences, and what could appear atrocious to them, must be atrocious indeed !

In 1784, Dr. Peckard expressed his abhorrence of slavery in a sermon, preached before the university of Cambridge, and being Vice-Chancellor in the ensuing year, he gave out the subject for the senior Bachelor's essay, *Anne liceat invitos in servitutum dare ?* Is it right to make slaves of others against their will ? This circumstance because the occasion of Mr. Clarkson's labours ; he had gained the first prize of the Latin Essay in the preceding year, and it was expected that he should maintain his reputation by a similar success.— Upon considering the thesis he conceived it to point directly to the African slave trade ; but he was ignorant of the subject, and a few weeks only were allowed for the composition. A lucky advertisement led him to Anthony Benezet's historical account of Guinea, and in this " precious book," as he truly calls it, and as it proved to him, to Africa, and to England, he found almost all that he wanted for his immediate purpose, and reference to all the best authorities upon the subject. We shall now use Mr. Clarkson's own words.

"Furnished then in this manner, I began my work. But no person

can tell the severe trial, which the writing of it proved to me. I had expected pleasure from the invention of the arguments, from the arrangement of them, from the putting of them together, and from the thought in the interim that I was engaged in an innocent contest for literary honour. But all my pleasure was damped by the facts which were now continually before me. It was but one gloomy subject from morning to night. In the day-time I was uneasy. In the night I had little rest. I sometimes never closed my eyelids for grief. It became now not so much a trial for academical reputation, as for the production of a work which might be useful to injured Africa. And keeping this idea in my mind ever after the perusal of Benezet, I always slept with a candle in my room, that I might rise out of bed and put down such thoughts as might occur to me in the night, if I judged them valuable, conceiving that no arguments of any moment should be lost in so great a cause. Having at length finished this painful task I sent my essay to the vice-chancellor, and soon afterwards found myself honoured as before with the first prize.

"As it is usual to read these essays publicly in the senate house soon after the prize is adjudged, I was called to Cambridge for this purpose. I went and performed my office. On returning, however to London, the subject of it almost wholly engrossed my thoughts. I became at times very seriously affected while upon the road. I stopped my horse occasionally, and dismounted and walked. I frequently tried to persuade myself in these intervals that the contents of my Essay could not be true. The more however I reflected upon them, or rather upon the authorities on which they were founded, the more I gave them credit.

Coming in sight of Wades-mill, in Hertfordshire, I sat down disconsolate on the turf by the roadside and held my hose. Here a thought came into my mind, that if the contents of the Essay were true, it was time some person should see these calamities to their end. Agitated in this manner I reached home. This was in the summer of 1785.

"In the course of the autumn of the same year I experienced similar impressions. I walked frequently into the woods, that I might think on the subject in solitude, and find relief to my mind there. But there the question still recurred, "Are those things true?"—Still the answer followed as instantaneously "They are."—Still the result accompanied it, "Then surely some person should interfere." I then began to envy those that had seats in parliament, and who had great riches, and widely extended connections, which would enable them to take up this cause. Finding scarcely any one at that time who thought of it, I was turned frequently to myself. But here many difficulties arose. It struck me, among others, that a young man of only twenty-four years of age could not have that solid judgment, or knowledge of men, manners, and things, which were requisite to qualify him to undertake a task of such magnitude and importance;—and with whom was I to unite? I believed also, that it looked so much like one of the feigned labours of Hercules, that my understanding would be suspected if I proposed it. On ruminating however on the subject, I found one thing at least practicable, and that this also was in my power. I could translate my latin dissertation. I could enlarge it usefully. I could see how the public received it, or how far they were likely to favour any serious measures, which should

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have a tendency to produce the abolition of the slave-trade. Upon this then I determined; and in the middle of the month of November 1785, I began my work."

When Mr. Clarkson was half through his task, he called upon Mr. Cadell, the bookseller, to consult him concerning the publication, and was told, that as the original Essay had been honoured by the university of Cambridge with the first prize, this circumstance would ensure it a respectable circulation among persons of taste. But this was not what the author wished,—he wished it to find its way among useful people, and among such as would think and act with him. Leaving Mr. Cadell, he met a Quaker, who accosted him by saying, he was the person whom he was wishing to see; and asked why he had not published his Essay. I asked him, in return, says Mr. Clarkson, what had made him think of that subject in particular. He replied that his own society had long taken it up as a religious body, and individuals among them were wishing to find me out. To one of those individuals, James Phillips, the bookseller, he was immediately introduced. By him he was made acquainted with what had already been done by the Quakers, on the subject of negro slavery; through him he was introduced to those persons, whose hearts were set upon the same object with his own, and here arose that connection between Clarkson and the society of Quakers, which contributed materially to the abolition of the slave-trade.

The Essay was printed. The first important friend whom it made to the cause was Bennet Langton, who had long been the author's friend; upon him it made a deep impression, and he became a zealous and active coadjutor in the work as long as he lived. Other persons were in like

manner impressed by it. On a visit to Mr. Ramsay, in Kent, who had previously published upon the same subject,—he was introduced to Sir Charles Middleton (now Lord Barham.) Sir Charles and Lady Middleton had their minds affected upon this subject by Ramsay, and it was at their house, in the joy of his heart, at finding others who sympathized with him, Mr. Clarkson exclaimed, that he was ready to devote himself to the cause. Sir Charles then offered him all the means of information, respecting Africa, which he could procure, as comptroller of the Navy, such as extracts from the journals of ships of war, &c. and they operated as a new encouragement.

"The next morning," says he, "when I awoke, one of the first things that struck me was, that I had given a pledge the day before, that I would devote myself to the cause of the oppressed Africans. I became a little uneasy at this. I questioned whether I had considered matters sufficiently to be able to go so far with propriety. I determined therefore to give the subject a full consideration, and accordingly I walked to the place of my usual meditations, the woods.

"Having now reached a place of solitude, I began to balance every thing on both sides of the question, I considered first, that I had not yet obtained information sufficient on the subject, to qualify me for the undertaking of such a work. But I reflected, on the other hand, that Sir Charles Middleton had just opened to me a new source of knowledge; that I should be backed by the local information of Dillwyn and Ramsay, and that surely, by taking pains, I could acquire more.

"I then considered that I had not yet a sufficient number of friends to support me. This occasioned me to

review them. I thought upon the whole, that, considering the short time I had been at work, I was well off with respect to support. I believed also that there were still several of my own acquaintance, whom I could interest in the question, and I did not doubt that, by exerting myself diligently, persons, who were then strangers to me, would be raised up in time.

"I considered next, that it was impossible for a great cause like this to be forwarded without large pecuniary funds. I questioned whether some thousand pounds would not be necessary, and from whence was such a sum to come? In answer to this, I persuaded myself that generous people would be found, who would unite with me in contributing their mite towards the undertaking, and I seemed confident that, as the Quakers had taken up the cause as a religious body, they would not be behind-hand in supporting it.

"I considered lastly, that, if I took up the question, I must devote myself wholly to it. I was sensible that a little labour now and then would be inadequate to the purpose, or that, where the interests of so many thousand persons were likely to be affected, constant exertion would be necessary. I felt certain that, if ever the matter were to be taken up, there could be no hope of success, except it should be taken up by some one, who would make it an object or business of his life. I thought too that a man's life might not be more than adequate to the accomplishment of the end. But I knew of no one who could devote such a portion of time to it. Sir Charles Middleton, though he was so warm and zealous, was greatly occupied in the discharge of his office. Mr. Langton spent a great portion of his time in the education of his children. Dr. Baker had a great

deal to do in the performance of his parochial duty. The Quakers were almost all of them in trade. I could look therefore to no person but myself; and the question was, whether I was prepared to make the sacrifice. In favour of the undertaking I urged to myself, that never was any cause, which had been taken up by man in any country or in any age, so great and important; that never was there one, in which so much misery was heard to cry for redress; that never was there one in which so much good could be done; never one, in which the duty of christian charity could be so extensively exercised; never one more worthy of the devotion of a whole life towards it; and that, if a man thought properly, he ought to rejoice to have been called into existence, if he were only permitted to become an instrument in forwarding it in any part of its progress. Against these sentiments on the other hand I had to urge, that I had been designed for the church; that I had already advanced as far as deacon's orders in it; that my prospects there on account of my connections were then brilliant: that, by appearing to desert my profession, my family would be dissatisfied, if not unhappy. These thoughts pressed upon me, and rendered the conflict difficult. But the sacrifice of my prospects staggered me, I own, the most. When the other objections, which I have related, occurred to me, my enthusiasm instantly, like a flash of lightning, consumed them: but this stuck to me, and troubled me. I had ambition. I had a thirst after worldly interest and honours, and I could not extinguish it at once. I was more than two hours in solitude under this painful conflict. At length I yielded; not because I saw any reasonable prospect of success in my new undertaking (for all

cool-headed and cool-hearted men would have pronounced against it,) but in obedience, I believe, to a higher power. And this I can say, that both on the moment of this resolution, and for sometime afterwards, I had more sublime and happy feelings, than at any former period of my life."

It now became necessary to fix a plan of operations. He determined that he should, with all possible diligence, make himself master of every thing connected with the African Slave-trade. When this was communicated to his friends among the Quakers, they with their usual consideration observed, that it would be unjust if they suffered him to circulate his books at his own expense, they therefore took off the remaining part of the edition by subscription, at prime cost, and distributed them to the various well-wishers of the cause. Clarkson now went on board the African ships in the river, obtained specimens of the productions of the country, and for the first time got into a slave vessel. He obtained access to all whom he could hear of who had been in Africa, and thus in process of time acquired more knowledge respecting the slave trade, and slave coast, than any individual had ever possessed before him.

In the course of Clarkson's inquiries, he had found reason to believe that the slave-trade was peculiarly fatal to those employed in it. He procured copies of the muster-rolls, from the custom-house at Liverpool, for a given time, and he and Richard Phillips undertook to examine them. This was a long and tedious business. They usually met, for this purpose, at nine in the evening, and seldom parted till one, or sometimes till three in the morning. "When our eyes," says Clarkson, "were inflamed by the candle, or tired by fatigue, we used to relieve

ourselves by walking out within the precincts of Lincoln's Inn, when all seemed to be fast asleep, and thus, as it were, in solitude and in stillness, to converse upon them, as well as upon the best means of the further promotion of our cause. From these muster-rolls information of very great importance was obtained. It was ascertained beyond the power of contradiction, that more than half of the seamen who went out with the ships in the slave-trade, did not return with them; and that of these so many perished as amounted to one-fifth of all employed. What became of the remainder, was not to be discovered then, and this was left for future inquiry. Other information of great importance was procured, concerning estates in the West Indies, where the slaves, by mild and prudent usage, had so increased in population, as to supercede the necessity of the slave-trade. By this and other inquiries, Mr. Clarkson was enabled to make several necessary discriminations, and to answer many objections which had hitherto appeared formidable. "But most of all," says he, "was I rejoiced at the thought that I should soon be able to prove that which I had never doubted, but which had hitherto been beyond my power in this case, that Providence had never made that to be wise which was immoral, and that the slave-trade would be found as impolitic as it was inhuman and unjust."

The next point was to obtain Mr. Wilberforce's promise, to take up the matter in parliament. Bennet Langton invited him to dinner, and put the question in the shape of a compliment. He replied that he had no objection to bring forward the measure in parliament when he was better prepared for it, and provided no person more proper could be found, and he authorized Clarkson to communicate this to his friends in

the city. A committee was then formed consisting of twelve persons. The next thing was to procure evidence for the parliamentary inquiry, and Clarkson undertook to visit Bristol, Liverpool and Lancaster for this purpose. No work of autobiography contains a finer passage than this in which he describes the beginning of his journey, or mission as it may truly be called.

"I determined to take this journey on horseback, not only on account of the relaxed state in which I found myself, after such close and constant application, but because I wished to have all my time to myself upon the road, in order the better to reflect upon the proper means of promoting this great cause. The first place I resolved to visit was Bristol. Accordingly I directed my course thither. On turning a corner, within about a mile of that city, at about eight in the evening, I came within sight of it. The weather was rather hazy, which occasioned it to look of unusual dimensions. The bells of some of the churches were then ringing; the sound of them did not strike me, till I had turned the corner before mentioned, when it came upon me at once. It filled me, almost directly with a melancholy for which I could not account, I began now to tremble, for the first time, at the arduous task I had undertaken, of attempting to subvert one of the branches of the commerce of the great place which was then before me. I began to think of the host of people I should have to encounter in it. I anticipated much persecution in it also; and I questioned whether I should even get out of it alive. But in journeying on, I became more calm and composed. My spirits began to return. In these latter moments I considered my first feelings as useful, inasmuch as they impressed upon me the necessity of extraordinary courage, and activity, and per-

severance, and of watchfulness, also, over my own conduct, that I might not throw any stain upon the cause I had undertaken. When, therefore I entered the city, I entered it with an undaunted spirit, determining that no labour should make me shrink, nor danger, nor even persecution, deter me from my pursuit."

Clarkson took with him introductions to many Quakers, and to one in particular who proved of great use to him, for in his youth he had been two voyages in the slave-trade; he now felt deep affliction of mind for having been concerned in it, and was earnestly desirous to make some reparation for his own offences by doing all in his power towards the abolition. The alarm had not yet been taken by the slave-merchants and slave-holders; people talked openly upon the subject. There were facts concerning the trade in every body's mouth, every body seemed to execrate it, but no one thought of the removal of the evil. "My course," says Clarkson, "was obvious, for I had little else to do in pursuing two or three of my objects, than to trace the foundation of those reports which were in circulation."

The *Alfred* slave vessel arrived about this time; reports were current that the crew had been barbarously used, and particularly the surgeon's mate, a young man of the name of Thomas, who in consequence of his ill usage, had three times jumped over-board. Clarkson found out the poor man, but he was delirious. In his intervals of sense, he exclaimed against the cruelty of the captain, and of the chief mate, and pointed to his legs, thighs and body, which were all wrapt up in flannel, to show how much he had suffered there. At one time he said he forgave them; at another, asked Clarkson if he came to befriend him; presently looked wildly, and asked if he meant to take the captain's part, and to kill

him. Thomas died before any thing could be done in his behalf. Another man of the same ship's crew was discovered, who in consequence of the like treatment, had also jumped over-board. His lip had been cut in two, by a blow from the captain, and the wound was still unhealed. A third man appeared, whose arm had been broken by the chief mate, and Charles Horseler, another of the crew, had been so severely beaten over the breast with the knotted end of a rope, which end was of the size of a large ball, and had been made on purpose, that he died of it. The captain of this Alfred, when mate of a slave ship, had been tried at Barbadoes for the murder of one of the crew, he had escaped by bribing the principal witness to disappear, and used to boast of having tricked the law on that occasion. The purser of the Alfred knew all these circumstances, the only effect which it produced upon him, was to make him endeavour to get the instrument of Horseler's death into his own hands, but Clarkson had secured it. This purser however sent out the same captain again, as he had before the captain of the Brothers, who was also guilty of many inhuman acts, for this wretch was purser of both vessels.

What was to be done? Clarkson thought of bringing the captain to trial either for the murder of Thomas, or of Horseler. He consulted with Mr. Burges, an eminent attorney, and the deputy town clerk, on this occasion. Burges had privately assisted him in his undertaking, publicly he was afraid to appear, knowing the sentiments of many of the corporation under whom he acted. His advice was to take notes of their cases, but to let the murders pass without public notice, as it would be almost impossible to bring the murderers to justice, manifest as the case was. Seamen, he observed, as soon

as their wages were expended, must be off to sea again, for they cannot maintain themselves on shore. Here he would be obliged to keep them at his own expense till the day of trial, meantime, beyond a doubt, the merchants and others would inveigle many of them away. If any of the officers of the ship thought of ever sailing under the same owners, they would all be against him; and he concluded by this hopeless remark, that if Clarkson were to take up the cause of all who complained of ill-usage in that trade, he must take up that of nearly all who sailed in it, for he only knew of one slave captain from the port of Bristol who did not deserve long ago to be hanged.

In the course of Mr. Clarkson's inquiries he had learnt that seamen had an aversion to enter this trade, and that they were inveigled, and sometimes forced into it. It was necessary to ascertain this and obtain satisfactory proof. This he effected by means of one Thompson, a religious, honest, intelligent man, who kept a public house, where he was accustomed to receive sailors when discharged at the end of their voyages.

Thompson however knew what houses the mates of the slave vessels frequented to pick up hands, and went with Clarkson to them. These houses were in Marsh-street, one of the vilest places in Bristol. All kinds of obscene revelry were here kept from night to night. The young sailor, if a stranger to the port and to the trade, was sure to be picked up. The novelty of the voyage, the superiority of the wages, &c. were set before him, and if they succeeded in gulling him, the boat was waiting to carry him off. If these allurements did not succeed, he was supplied with liquor till he became intoxicated, a bargain was made over him between the

landlord and the mate, and he was kept in a constant state of stupefaction till he was secured. Another plan was to board seamen in these houses, encourage them when the slave ships were going out to spend more than they had money to pay for, and then their only alternative was the slave ship or the jail. Of these infamous practices Clarkson had personal and ample evidence,—and no such practices were in use to obtain men for any other trade. The mystery of iniquity did not end here. These wages which were nominally higher than in other trades, were actually lower,—for the men were made to sign articles that half their wages should be paid in the currency of the coast,—and they were never permitted to read over the articles which they had signed. The trade was, in short, one mass of iniquity from the beginning to the end.

Facts had crowded upon Mr. Clarkson tenfold more numerous and more atrocious than he expected*; they were substantiated to him by undeniable proofs, but to obtain evidence when they should come to be investigated before the legislature of this country was a difficulty which could not have been foreseen. Those captains who had retired upon their ill-gotten gains were many of them still concerned in vessels to trade as owners, and with respect to all of them, it might generally be said, they had been guilty of such enormities that they would be afraid to come forward, lest any thing should come out to criminate themselves. And for those persons who

were still engaged in the service, or indeed for all those who were in any way connected with it—ample and melancholy proof was soon offered how little they could dare to say what they knew, or to act as they felt.

The next scene of his labour was Liverpool, where there were some precious articles manufactured for the slave trade which he had overlooked at Bristol, but which he saw here publicly exposed in a shop window. These consisted of handcuffs by which the right hand of the slave was fastened to the left of another, and shackles for fettering their legs in like manner—substantial proofs that the slaves did not leave their own country willingly, and that after they were in the holds of the slave-ships they were not in the elysium which had been represented. Thumb screws also,—an instrument of torture which is shown with horror at the Tower, in London, as a proof of catholic cruelty, were regularly manufactured for this accursed trade, and the instruments which surgeons know by the name of *speculum oris* also, used to force open the mouths of the slaves when they were so *sulky*, as to refuse food. Here as well as at Bristol, horrible facts were in every body's mouth, but these facts were more numerous as was to be expected, from the greater extent of the trade, and the Liverpool people related them with more coldness, or less feeling, being more hardened to inhumanity.

Clarkson's errand was sooner understood at Liverpool than it had been at Bristol. People flocked to the public table at which he dined; some to dispute with him concerning the slave trade, more to insult him; this was to no purpose, he was not to be irritated by insults; his arguments beat all opponents out of the field; and when as a last resource he was

* Innumerable instances of inhuman conduct towards the Negroes, could be given, but as this article is already extended to a considerable length, we rather refer our readers to Clarkson's "History of the Abolition of the Slave-trade." A book highly deserving of attentive perusal.

triumphantly asked if he had ever been on the coast of Africa himself, Falconbridge * used to answer, but I have, and know all your proceedings there—and that his statements are true. One evil effect of the notoriety was that none could be found to come forward as an evidence. There were hundreds who had left the trade, and could have given such testimony as would have insured its abolition, but none of them would speak out. Even those who were alive to the horrors of the traffic, dared do nothing more than privately to see him, tell him he was right, and exhort him to persevere, but if they came forward they said their houses would be pulled down. Clarkson himself had personal proof that their fears was not groundless, for an attempt was made to throw him over the pier by a party of the traffickers in human blood, one of whom was a murderer. A more atrocious murder is not upon record than this man had committed upon Peter Green,—for two hours and a half he had him beaten over the back and head with a cat and nine tails, till the lashes were all worn into threads—a second was then ordered, with which he himself flogged him, beating him at times over the head with a double walled knot at the end, and changing hands as he was tired, and cursing his own left hand for not being able to strike so severe a blow as his right. The Bristol captain of the *Alfred*, a murderer himself, stood by, and after the poor wretch intreated him to intercede, replied that he would have served him in the same manner. Green died during the night. Will it be believed that an Englishman could thus be murdered with impunity! Yet when Clarkson men-

tioned to his friends an intention of taking up three of the officers of the ship, they dissuaded him from it. Every effort, they said, would be made to screen the murderers. They believed that such of the magistrates as were interested in the trade, when applied to for warrants, would contrive to give notice to the officers to escape—and that Clarkson himself would be torn to pieces, and the house in which he lodged burnt down, if he made the attempt: Under these circumstances he sent Ormond and another principal witness of the cruelty of the Captain of a slave-ship, to London, to keep them out of the way of corruption, till he could determine how to proceed.

“It is impossible” says Mr. Clarkson, “if I observe the bounds I have prescribed myself, and I believe the reader will be glad of it on account of his own feelings, that I should lay open the numerous cases, which came before me at Liverpool, relative to the ill treatment of the seamen in this wicked trade. It may be sufficient to say, that they harassed my constitution, and affected my spirits daily. They were in my thoughts on my pillow after I retired to rest, and I found them before my eyes when I awoke. Afflicting however as they were, they were of great use in the promotion of our cause. For they served whatever else failed, as a stimulus to perpetual energy. They made me think light of former labours, and they urged me imperiously to new. And here I may observe, that among the many circumstances, which ought to excite our joy on considering the great event of the abolition of the slave-trade, which has now happily taken place, there are few for which we ought to be more grateful, than that from this time our commerce ceases to breed such abandoned wretches; while those, who have thus been

* Alexander Falconbridge, a young man who had been employed in the slave trade, but who renounced it on principle.

bred in it, and who may yet find employment in other trades, will in the common course of nature be taken off in a given time, so that our marine will at length be purified from a race of monsters, which have helped to cripple its strength, and disgrace its character."

It yet remained to require justice upon the murderers of Green: the witnesses were taken before Sir Sampson Wright. He had no doubt that the murder would be proved, and found himself therefore compelled to apply to the magistrates of Liverpool for the apprehension of three of the principal officers of the ship; but the answer was that the ship had sailed, and that none of these persons were to be found in Liverpool.

"It was now for me," says Clarkson," to consider whether I would keep the two witnesses, Ormond and Murray, for a year, or perhaps longer, at my own expense, and run the hazard of the death of the officers in the interim, and of other calculable events. I had felt so deeply for the usage of the seamen in this cruel traffic, which indeed had embittered all my journey, that I had no less than nine prosecutions at law upon my hands on their account, and nineteen witnesses detained at my own cost. The committee in London could give me no assistance in these cases. They were the managers of the public purse for the abolition of the slave trade, and any expenses of this kind were neither within the limits of their object, nor within the pale of their duty. From the individuals belonging to it, I picked up a few guineas by way of private subscription, and this was all. But a vast load still remained upon me, and such as had occasioned uneasiness to my mind. I thought it therefore imprudent to detain the evidences for this purpose for so long a time, and I sent them

back to Liverpool. I commenced however a prosecution against the Captain at common law for his barbarous usage of them, and desired that it might be pushed on as vigorously as possible; and the result was, that his attorney was so alarmed, particularly after knowing what had been done by Sir Sampson Wright, that he entered into a compromise to pay all the expenses of the suit hitherto incurred, and to give Ormond and Murray a sum of money, as damages for the injury which they themselves had sustained. This compromise was acceded to. The men received the money, and signed the release, (of which I insisted upon a copy), and went to sea again in another trade, thanking me for my interference in their behalf. But by this copy, which I have now in my possession, it appears, that care was taken by the Captain's attorney, to render their future evidence in the case of Peter Green, almost impracticable; for it was there wickedly stated, 'that George Ormond and Patrick Murray did then and there bind themselves in certain penalties, that they would neither encourage nor support any action at law against the said captain, by or at the suit or prosecution of any other of the seamen now or late on board the said ship, and that they released the said Captain also from all manner of actions, suits, and cause and causes of actions, informations, prosecutions, and other proceedings, which they then had, or ever had, or could or might have, by reason of the said assaults upon their own persons, or other wrongs or injuries done by the said Captain heretofore, and to the date of this release.*'" (To be continued.)

* None of the nine actions before-mentioned ever came to trial, but they were all compromised by paying money to the injured parties.